



# THE NEW CZAR OF THE BULGARIANS AND HIS PEOPLE



## He Is Trying His Hand at the Solution of the Perplexing Balkan Problem.

AMONG all the moves which have been made recently on the European political checker-board the unexpected jump of Bulgaria into the king row has been most sensational. For many years this corner of southeastern Europe has been overshadowed by its mightier neighbors. To the busy world at large its exact geographical position has been a matter of more or less hazy indifference. That it was one of the Balkan states, a principality in the lower Danube region, has seemed until the present to be sufficient.

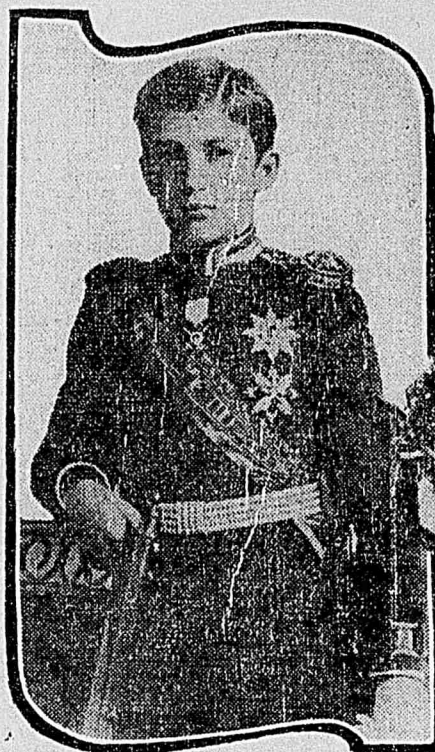
Now it is quite a different proposition. With a single bound this most inconsequential of nations has come to the front. But yesterday it was a mere Christian principality, its petty ruler a vassal of the sultan. Today it is a full fledged state, its sovereign the czar of the Bulgars.

It is but justice to these same Bulgars to admit that the world's past idea of them has been vastly different from their own. They have never been inclined to accept the world's estimate of them and their country. They are a people with a history, and they have always been insistent in their effort to live up to it. Precisely what it is no one seems to know, not even the Bulgars themselves. Some time in the fifth century, too long ago to be particularly concerning the exact year, they forsook the wild swamp steppes of Russia and settled in the scarcely less inhospitable region of the lower Danube. What they were before they lived in Russia no man knows positively.

Ethnologists are divided in their opinions, some finding a Finnish origin for the Bulgars and others referring them to Tartar stock. It really matters little. It is sufficient to realize that the Bulgar of the present is with us, and it is with him we have to deal. He has been a stickler for his nationality all along the ages, and that fact does him credit. In the good old times his country was independent, ruled by its own czar, and a vassal of the Turk. That was his history for centuries—a period of national prosperity under a czar crowned at ancient Tirnovo, followed by a humiliating vassalage to the hated power at Constantinople.

### Principality of Recent Origin.

The principality is a matter of only thirty years. It is really a creation of the late Prince Bismarck, who had a decided taste for such work. For some time before that date Bulgaria had existed as the result of an agreement between Russia and Turkey called the treaty of San Stefano. This arrangement suited nobody, and Prince Bismarck saw an opportunity to use his diplomatic skill. So he invited representatives of the powers to go to Berlin and talk it over. That confab resulted in the famous treaty of Berlin, which gave something to almost everybody save those for whose benefit, presumably, it was intended. Austria was permitted to have virtual control over Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russia recovered the Bessarabian territory taken from her and given to Roumania by the treaty of Paris, Greece was given permission to extend her frontier, and England managed to appropriate Cyprus. It was only the Turk and the Bulgarian who were left out of the distribution. Turkey was plucked openly, and Bulgaria was made to give up eastern Roumelia, which she had pre-



BORIS, CROWN PRINCE OF BULGARIA

viously wrested from the sultan with the explanation that she was only recovering stolen goods.

About the only thing Prince Bismarck and his diplomatic guests found suitable for Bulgaria was the principality. The Bulgars didn't want it, but in the end they accepted it with as good grace as they could muster and resolved to make the best of it. The Berlin adjusters made it an autonomous and tributary state under the suzerainty of the sultan, with a Christian government and a national militia. Its ruler was to be elected by the people and confirmed by the sultan, with the consent of the powers. The prince, however, must not be a member of any of the reigning houses identified with the conferring powers, and he must reside permanently in the principality. "How permanently remains to be seen," observed a Bulgarian member of the assembly of notables when he read the draft of the treaty.

The masterful Bismarck was successful in his ambition to put a man of his own choosing at the head of the new Bulgarian principality. Prince Alexander of Battenberg was also the choice of the assembly of notables, and he was elected, greatly to the disgust of Russia, which had a favored candidate. At the time no one believed that the new ruler would remain at his post for a year or that he would be permitted to do so.

### A Man of Initiative.

Alexander, however, proved to be neither a figurehead nor a catspaw. He had very well defined ideas of his own as to how his principality should be governed, and he proceeded to put them into operation. From the first he made it clear that he was not an agent of the czar or of the Austrian emperor. He entered into the scheme of annexation of Bulgaria but for the interference of Austria. He was altogether too devoted to Bulgarian interests to suit Russia, and the Muscovites began to plot to get rid of him. The czar's secret agents fomented a



NEW CZAR OF THE BULGARS

conspiracy. On the night of Aug. 21, 1886, Alexander was lured secretly into Russian territory and there forced to abdicate. A revolution followed, and the prince returned to Bulgaria. He remained in the principality less than a month. Everything was in a state of anarchy, and he once more sought asylum in Germany in disgust, leaving an abdication in the hands of his parliament.

Alexander left many friends in Bulgaria, some of them rich and powerful, who would have remained faithful to his interests, but he had had enough. He declined absolutely to take any step to recover his turbulent principality, and the Bulgarians were without a ruler.

### In Search of a Ruler.

A deputation was sent in search of one. Practically all of the courts of Europe were visited, but there was a marked paucity of candidates for the ticklish position. With Alexander's experience fresh in mind, not even the most impoverished princelet in the German empire could be persuaded to try his hand at being prince of Bulgaria. At last the baffled deputation returned to Vienna with the forlorn hope that some one of the multitude of inconspicuous demi-royalties connected with the Austrian court might be "begged, borrowed or stolen."

The bewhiskered Bulgars found no

man willing to take the risk. No budding scion of royalty at the Austrian capital would listen to the proposition. Disheartened, the deputation prepared to return to Sofia empty handed. On the evening fixed for their departure, while waiting for the train which was to carry them over the frontier, the Bulgarian notables entered a beer garden and seated themselves at a table near the entrance. Here they

were joined a little later by a Viennese nobleman who attempted to console for the failure of their mission.

Presently a young man wearing the uniform of a lieutenant in his Austrian majesty's guards entered the garden and took a seat at the table nearest the prince hunters. The Viennese at the Bulgarian table and the newcomer exchanged bows, and then the former turned to the head of the deputation and began a spirited conversation in a low tone. Half an hour later the Bulgarians left the garden, but they did not go to the railway station. They went back to their hotel and to bed with new-born hope in their more or less honest hearts.

The next morning the deputation had an audience with the prime minister, and before night of the same day a telegram was sent to Sofia asking whether or no Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha would be acceptable as a candidate for ruler. The answer was, "Entirely so."

The prince, of course, was the young lieutenant of the beer garden.

When he was consulted he surprised everybody by accepting the offer without a moment's hesitation. Prince Ferdinand was a notability in Vienna and an especial favorite of the emperor, who made much of him at court functions and liked to have him at the palace. He was twenty-seven years of age at the time and ready for any adventure. The Bulgarians offer an appealing prospect to him and to his taste for political intrigue. The old emperor tried to dissuade him and was furious over his persistence, but Ferdinand was firm and was made prince ruler of Bulgaria at the ancient capital, Tirnovo.

Bulgaria in Luck.

For once Bulgaria had met with rare good fortune. Her new ruler was one of the richest princes in Europe, and his aged mother, Princess Clementine, daughter of Louis Philippe, was a woman of colossal fortune. Bulgaria was impoverished, the result of her recent revolution and political misdoing of all sorts. In spite of her poverty the principality voted Ferdinand a salary of \$250,000 a year, which he promptly returned to the treasury until the country became prosperous. With his own private resources he proceeded at once to put the principality on a sound financial footing, and with his own money and that of the Princess Clementine he undertook public improvement on a generous scale. The Bulgars realized from the first that they had drawn a prize and were properly appreciative. Ferdinand has never given them cause to regret that opportune visit to the Vienna beer garden.

He is a schemer and an active one. That of itself endears him to his people, especially when his personal ambition is so inseparable from the aggrandizement of the principality. He has never made a secret of his intention to restore Bulgaria to its old time dimensions, and he is perfectly willing it should exceed that convenient limit. Because he believed that he could achieve his ultimate design of becoming sovereign of a really white while state through Russian co-operation he cultivated the czar with a zeal that led him into political extravagance, the climax of which was the "conversion" of his young heir, Prince Boris, to the Orthodox Russian church. Failing to accomplish his purpose even through this transparent maneuver, which must have been perceived by every one to a man whose affluence and traditions had always been Roman Catholic, Ferdinand did what he could to repair his apostasy and to conciliate his German relatives by wedding the amiable and mature Eleonore of Reuss. His first wife, the mother of his two sons and two daughters, was the Bourbon Princess Louise of Parma, who died after six years of married life in Bulgaria.

The new czar of the Bulgars has proved himself to be a man of deeds—first by securing and maintaining a firm hold on the affections of a race so different from his own; again, by a coup d'etat which promises to result greatly to the advantage of his people.

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## Has Shown Himself to Be a Man of Nerve and Fit to Be the Leader of His People.

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# New Battleships of the Dreadnought Type; Does the Peace of the World Depend on Them?

AT last Uncle Sam's navy is to have two monster fighting machines of the Dreadnought type—the North Dakota, soon to be launched at Fore River, Mass., and the Delaware, now under construction at Newport News, Va. These great battleships, which are almost precisely alike, have a long forecastle deck extending from the bow almost to the center of the vessel. The ten twelve-inch guns are arranged in five turrets, two to a turret, the forward turret being so located that the axes of its guns are twenty-four feet above the water line. Just abaft this turret is another, the barbette of which is of sufficient height for its guns to clear the roof of the forward turret. Aboard the break of the forecastle deck, and also situated on the axis of the ship, are two more twelve-inch gun turrets, and abaft and near the stern is the fifth and last of the big turrets.

Naval men are of the opinion that no navy in the world possesses a ship of the Dreadnought type in which the guns are arranged to better advantage. It is only recently that the full meaning of concentrated sea power seems to have been made clear to any nation. Until within the last few years the fleets of the great nations were scattered over the globe, and the force of sea power was lost in maintaining divided squadrons in different parts of the world. The political situation caused Great Britain to reshape its sea fighting strength in one powerful home fleet. At this time also there was a wild hurrah in Germany over the proposition of its "war lord" to build the biggest navy in the world. The country was already tax burdened, but the subservient reichstag provided that the existing organization of the navy be raised from the standard of the 11,000-ton ship to that of 13,000. In reply the British admiralty lords threw 122 fighting ships, representing an outlay of \$80,000,000, into the scrap heap and built a new navy of the King Edward type of ships, mounting four nine-inch guns in addition to the usual battery.

### Coming of the Dreadnought.

The Teuton had been outwitted, but his sea power continued to expand, especially his merchant marine. Finally his insular maritime rival abandoned all conservatism and produced the Dreadnought. It was a fearful blow. For it made the highly vaunted German fleet a collection of second class ships. All the navies of the world were made vastly less efficient by its coming. That of Russia, broken into fragments by the Japanese, has never been restored even to its original strength. That of France has been brought to a state of almost absolute inefficiency by failure to keep up with the procession.

Italy and in America. It was the Italian Colonel Cuniberti who designed the Dreadnought and offered the plan to the admiralty of his own country. Unwilling to undertake the construction of such a costly type, the Italian government "turned it down." Cuniberti then gave his design to the world, and the British made use of it. In the same year that Cuniberti planned his big ship Lieutenant Poundstone laid before the United States naval department the plans of a large type of warship similar to the Dreadnought.

The wonderful speed of these big ships, twenty-one knots, makes every other battleship not turbine driven a tortoise-like affair. In an action a fleet of Dreadnoughts might accept or decline battle, as suited its convenience. It could also choose its own range and control the rate of change of range.

Although the tremendous power of concentration secured by the ten twelve-inch guns of a Dreadnought is the principal reason for the adoption of this new type by all the navies of the world, its cost is much less than four small battleships aggregating the same power. As to the question of maintenance, it costs no more to keep the big ship in commission than the small one. A million a year is about the expense of it. Strange as it may seem, it does not require so many officers to man it. Fewer men are necessary to serve the ten guns of one of our new Dreadnoughts than are required for all the guns of the Missouri.

A nation with a perfect fleet of Dreadnoughts might preserve the peace of the world. In order to defy her on the high seas it would be necessary to excel her in point of numbers and in equipment. No naval armament of the usual type could withstand such a fleet. In combat with a fleet of the type that must soon go to the junk pile, even one of these new ships could inflict fearful destruction.

In combat such ships would conquer without wasting a single shot. Secure in the possession of impregnable armor, one of them could descend on her adversaries and with the concentrated fire of her ten hard hitting guns hammer the little ships to the point of surrender or speedy annihilation. Her perfect fire control would never permit a miss. Sweeping noiselessly across the sea, her pointers, following the enemy in the crosshairs of her sights, her ten enormous guns high above the waves and spray, would seek out the vulnerable point of the enemy and by continuous pounding would silence his heaviest guns.

In the battle of Tsushima, Russian naval prestige was wiped out in a single afternoon. Had the Japanese possessed a single Dreadnought the process of obliteration would have been less protracted—an hour and a half would have been quite long enough.

Preservers of Peace.

Thus it is that the destinies of maritime nations seem to hang on these arbiters of the seas. The Hague has not yet been able to suggest anything more practical or more potent. The power of the Dreadnought is having its influence on the war lords of Europe. Little fresh water states may bluster and burn powder, but the great naval powers are not over-anxious to assume the offensive.

On the South American continent Brazil is first to acknowledge the far-reaching influence of the Dreadnought and has already become the dominant force on account of the three great ships which she is having constructed. In spite of her poverty the little brown men of Japan are riveting and hammering day and night on the great hulls which are to be the bulwarks of her coming national prosperity. In 1911 the quaint flag of the mikado will fly over seven Dreadnoughts and nine Destroyer torpedoes. The Hagarets, too, Uncle Sam will have four ships of the highest efficiency and two others of the Michigan type—a sort of Dreadnought compromise. Great Britain will add eight improved Dreadnoughts to her navy and four cruisers, each carrying eight twelve-inch guns and with a speed of twenty-four knots. Italy has waited up and is building a 19,000-ton battleship. France, which once held second place among the world's naval powers, has dropped to fifth.

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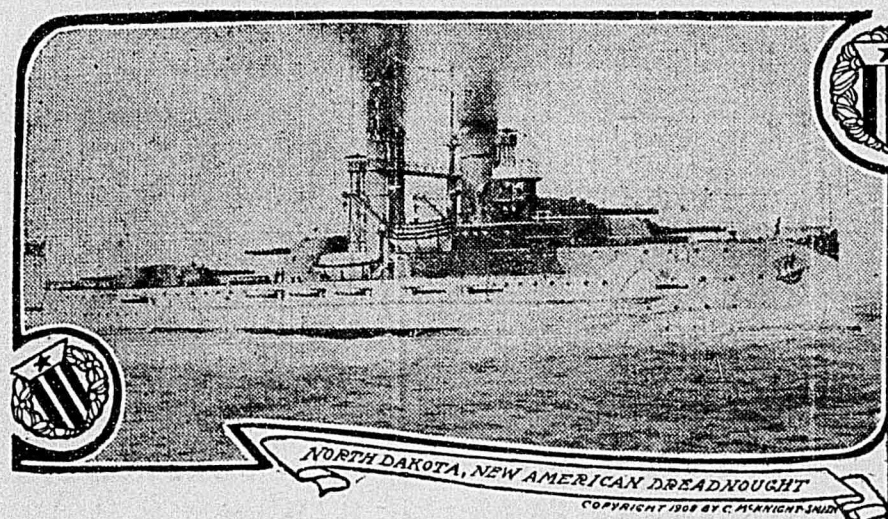
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NORTH DAKOTA, NEW AMERICAN DREADNOUGHT

The Kaiser, however, was not inclined to abandon his ambition to become lord of the admiralty of the Atlantic. His reply to this latest defiance from his English rival was seven Dreadnoughts, each with an armament of twelve eleven-inch guns, which are to be ready by 1911. This last stupendous effort to retain the supremacy will cost the Germans \$100,000,000. As yet the empire has no docks big enough to accommodate these leviathans, and the Kiel waterway will have to be widened and made deeper.

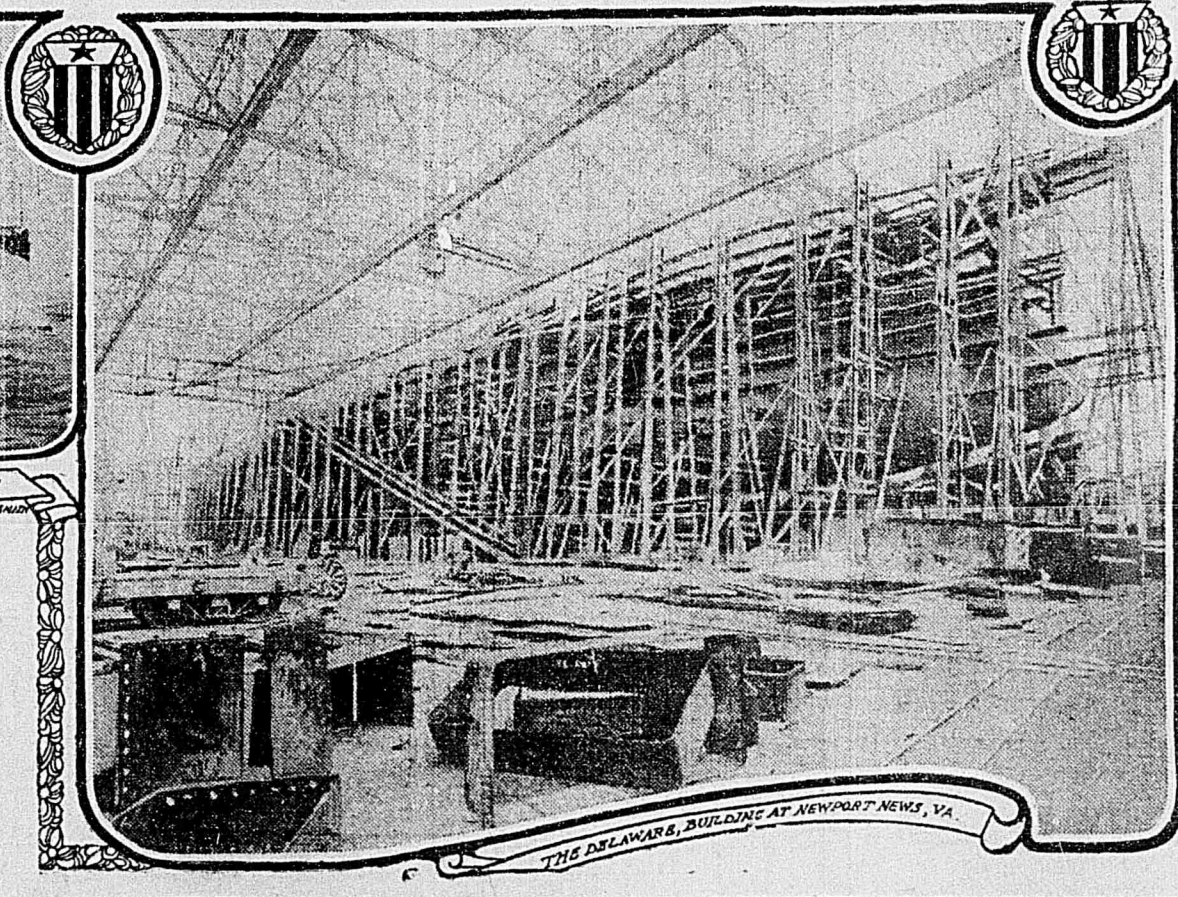
Although the honor of the practical realization of the Dreadnought type of battleships belongs to England, it had been discussed previously both in

This vessel was to be armed with twelve inch guns only. His plans were rejected.

Revolution in Naval Methods.

Smokeless powder and telescope sights, together with the new gunnery methods, have revolutionized the laws of gun fire. The turret gun used to be a slow and cumbersome weapon. Its record during the Spanish war was one round every five minutes and no hits. Now it has become an instrument of great precision. Its rate of fire is now more than twice a minute.

According to the naval experts, mobility of forces is the necessity of war. The greater the mobility the greater the chance of gaining a strategic ad-



THE DELAWARE, BUILDING AT NEWPORT NEWS, VA.

Many stories are being told of Dr. Richter, who has just celebrated his thirtieth year as a musician in England. Recently, when rehearsing a Mozart symphony, he stopped the band and exclaimed: "Please, gentlemen, more pianissimo. I want you to play like Queen Mab, not like suffragettes."

On another occasion, when getting through Tchaikovsky's "Tomcat and Juliet" scenes, he pulled up the orchestra and remarked: "You all play like married men, not like lovers."

Recently a well known banker, visiting New York, was introduced to Mr. Peter Finley Dunne. Impressed by the

beauty of the surrounding country, the banker suggested that they should take a walk the next morning at 6 o'clock. "Thank you," said Mr. Dunne, dryly, "but I never walk in my sleep."

Sir Edwin Elgar, the eminent English musical conductor, while in New York was aroused from his slumbers after midnight in a hotel by an irrepressible would be interviewer, who,

while knocking violently at the musician's door, exclaimed, "I represent the Sun." Sir Edwin made reply: "Go and represent the moon. It is more suitable at this hour of the night."

A remarkable instance of continuity in the holding of an office by the representatives of one family is reported from Farnham, England. Mr. Guy

Tassell has been appointed clerk to the commissioners of levels, an appointment which has been filled successively by his father, his grandfather, his great-grandfather and his great-great-grandfather.

The common expression "robbing Peter to pay Paul" found its origin in London in 1550, when an appropriation was made from St. Peter's cathedral

(now generally known as Westminster abbey) to make up a deficiency in the accounts of St. Paul's, the other famous metropolitan cathedral. This action roused a good deal of adverse criticism on the part of the people, who coined the phrase for the occasion.

Knots signify as the term is generally employed the rate of miles per

hour at which a vessel progresses. It is quite wrong to speak of days runs in knots or to speak of a ship's speed as twenty knots an hour. If a ship's speed is given as twenty knots it means twenty nautical miles in one hour. The knot on log line signifies the rate. The admiralty knot or nautical mile measures 6,080 feet, or 1.15 statute miles, equivalent to 1.013 1-3 fathoms.